

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
Logistics Operations School  
Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools  
PSC Box 20041  
Camp Lejeune, North Carolina 28542-0041

STUDENT OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: RESERVE LOGISTICS OFFICER COURSE

LESSON TOPIC NUMBER: RLO D110

LESSON TOPIC: LANDING FORCE SUPPORT PARTY (LFSP)

INSTRUCTIONAL REFERENCES:

1. MCWP 4-11.3, Transportation Operations
2. Joint Pub 3-02, Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations
3. Joint Pub, 3-02.2, Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Embark

OVERVIEW: The purpose of this class is to familiarize the student with the landing support operations. This will be accomplished by identifying the following:

- Mission
- Activation responsibilities
- Tasks of the Shore Party team
- Mission of the Beach Party Team
- Planning considerations in amphibious and MPF operations

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Terminal Learning Objective: Given the requirement to conduct throughput operations, the operations order, and the references, conduct landing support operations, and ensure

sustainment capacity supports the commander's concept of combat service support. (0402.04.04)

## 2. Enabling Learning Objective(s):

a. Given the references, commander's guidance, and an operations order, identify planning considerations for landing support operations, per the references. (0402.04.04a)

(1) Identify the mission of the LFSP

(2) Identify the activation responsibilities of the LFSP

(3) Identify the tasks of the Shore Party Team

(4) Identify the mission of the Beach Party Team

(5) Identify the planning considerations for the LFSP during amphibious operations

(6) Identify the planning considerations for the LFSP during MPF operations

b. Given the references, commander's guidance, and an operations order, identify planning considerations for the employment of material handling equipment (MHE), per the references. (0402.04.04b)

## 1. DEFINITIONS

a. LFSP in amphibious operations. The Landing Force Support Party (LFSP) is a temporary Landing Force (LF) organization, composed of Amphibious Task Force (ATF) and LF elements, that facilitates the ship-to-shore movement and provides initial combat service support and CSS to the LF.

b. LFSP in Maritime Prepositioning Force (MPF) operations. The LFSP is a task organized unit composed primarily of elements from the Combat Service Support Element (CSSE) and is augmented by other MAGTF elements.

## 2. MISSION

- a. Facilitate the landing and movement of personnel, supplies, and equipment across the beach, into a vertical landing zone (VLZ), or through a port.
- b. Evacuate casualties and EPWs from the beach.
- c. Beach, retract, and salvage landing ships and craft.
- d. Facilitate the establishments of the combat service support element (CSSE), Air Combat Element (ACE), and naval beach group.

**3. FORMATION** The organization and mission of the landing force determines the structure of the LFSP. For planning purposes, the basic LFSP structure consists of the LFSP commander, the shore party, the beach party, special attachments, and ships' platoon.

#### **4. ORGANIZATIONS**

- a. Figure 1 illustrates the typical organizational structure of the LFSP within the MAGTF.

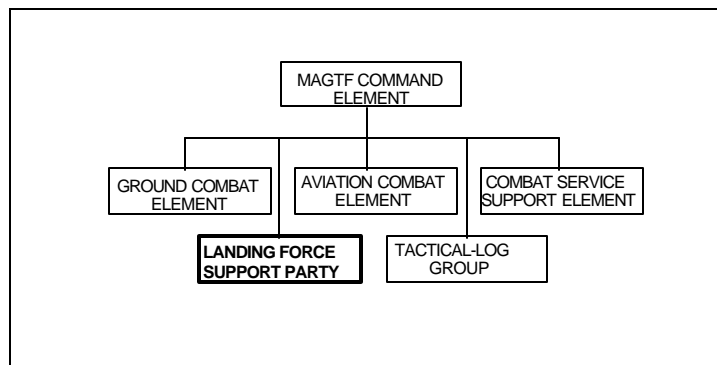


Figure 1. LFSP Relationship Within the MAGTF

- b. Headquarters. The LFSP headquarters controls and supervises landing support operations within the landing area as set forth in the landing force operations plan. The LFSP headquarters will normally be formed when there is a requirement for more than one task organized support unit (i.e., one shore party group and one helicopter support group). The headquarters will most likely include a command and administrative section, medical section, military police

section, communications section, motor transport/equipment section, and a liaison section.

c. Shore Party Group. The shore party group commander is directly responsible to the LFSP commander for organization, operation, and defense of the BSA. The landing plan and scheme of maneuver determine the shore party group's operations. The organization and disposition of the shore party teams and the size of the landing force determine if the shore party group operates two or more BSAs.

(a) Headquarters. The headquarters is organized around the headquarters of a landing support company, Transportation Support Battalion (TSB), and augmented as required. It is usually co-located with one of the shore party teams on the beach.

(1) Command Section. Commands, controls, and coordinates the efforts of the shore party teams. Responsible for administrative matters and maintaining up-to-date supply records.

(2) Military Police Section. Assigned local defense and security missions and supervises the operations of the MPs assigned to the shore party teams.

(3) Evacuation Section. Located near the shore party group's command post. It maintains records and plans for casualty evacuation from the BSA and provides medical care for the shore party group headquarters.

(4) Communication Section. Expands existing capabilities to meet the needs of the shore party group.

(5) Motor Transport/Equipment Section. Records the status and operational assignment of all assigned equipment and motor transport items.

(6) Replacement Pool. Generally placed in defensive positions in the BSA or assigned to dump areas as required. Replacement officers are assigned duties in shore party teams/group until they are needed as replacements in the tactical units.

(7) Beach Party Team Headquarters. Established near the shore party group's command post. It is the Navy

component of the shore party team. The team consists of the following sections:

- (a) Headquarters
- (b) Communications Section
- (c) Traffic Control Section
- (d) Salvage Section
- (e) Oceanographic Section
- (f) Other section

d. Shore Party Team. The shore party team's goal is to prepare and maintain beaching points and access roads, move troops and equipment across the beach rapidly, and reduce/prevent congestion on the beach. The shore party team unloads, segregates, stores, safeguards, and issues supplies as they are brought ashore. The shore party team organizes the BSA and develops inland supply facilities into combat service support areas. A shore party team includes:

(a) Advance Party. The advanced party is composed of a command section, liaison section, communications section, and beach party section. The advanced party conducts early beach reconnaissance, establishes communications, and marks landing sites and dumps before the remainder of the shore party team lands.

(b) Headquarters. The shore party team headquarters includes:

- (1) Command
- (2) Security section
- (3) Communications
- (4) Evacuation
- (5) MP section

(c) Shore Platoon. Constructs beach exits and lateral roads and assists in the unloading of cargo and equipment from landing crafts and ships.

(d) Service Platoon. The service platoon organizes and operates supply dumps and maintenance salvage areas within the BSA.

(e) Motor Transport/Heavy Equipment Platoon. Provides heavy equipment and motor transport support to the shore party team's sections and platoons.

## **5. NAVY ELEMENTS OF THE LFSP**

a. Beach Party Group. The beach party group is the Navy counterpart to the shore party group.

(1) The beach party group includes a beach party group headquarters, beach party team(s), a beach support unit, and landing craft air cushion(LCAC) craft landing zone (CLZ) control team(s).

(2) The beach party group's mission is to provide the beachmaster, traffic control, causeway lighterage, causeways, ship-to-shore bulk fuel systems, limited construction capabilities, landing craft, and beach salvage capabilities.

(a) Beach Party Team. The beach party team is the basic unit of the beach party and is the Navy component of the shore party team. The beach party team consists of the following sections:

- (1) Headquarters
- (2) Communications Section
- (c) Traffic Control Section
- (3) Salvage Section
- (4) Oceanographic Section
- (5) Other Sections

(b) Craft Landing Zone (CLZ) Control Team. The personnel for the LCAC CLZ control team come from the ship's complement. This team directs the LCAC to a CLZ for unloading, and then directs and controls the craft back to the ship.

(c) Beach Support Unit. The beach support unit is drawn from the amphibious construction battalion. This unit consists of a causeway platoon, fuels platoon, and camp support platoon.

(d) Special Attachments. Navy SEALs or the use of Navy explosive ordnance disposal units are examples of special attachments to the Beach Party Group.

## **6. PLANNING**

a. Considerations. There are many considerations that affect accomplishment of the landing support mission. These factors are carefully considered during landing support planning. Principal considerations include the following:

- (1) Early, detailed analysis of the objective area.
- (2) Analysis of tactical plans and their landing support requirements.
- (3) Timely and complete training of the task-organized LFSP.
- (4) Detailed planning for organization of BSAs and LZSA.
- (5) Combat loading of each assault ship.
- (6) Employment of the sea echelon concept.
- (7) Establishment of adequate communications between tactical units, control elements, and landing support units.
- (8) Defense requirements of BSAs and landing areas.
- (9) Composition of the assault echelon and assault follow-on echelon.
- (10) Evaluation of enemy activity and installations in the objective area.
- (11) Establishment of the landing force's scheme of

maneuver and landing plan.

(12) Evaluation of beach hydrographic conditions and terrain features inland from the beaches. This also includes HLZs.

(13) Quantity and types of supplies to be landed from assault shipping.

(14) Availability of personnel, supplies, and equipment for shore party operations.

(15) Availability of assault shipping.

(16) Development of plans for handling of EPWs.

(17) Development of casualty evacuation and disaster recovery plans.

(18) Identification of coordination requirements with other agencies.

(19) Concept of combat service support.

(20) Coordination required with other agencies.

(21) Provision for inter-service support.

b. LFSP Planning Responsibilities

(1) Commander Landing Force (CLF) is responsible for the conduct of LFSP operations.

(2) Commander Amphibious Task Force (CATF) is responsible for preparing related plans that provide naval facilities and means to ensure effective support of LFSP operations.

(3) CLF is responsible for ensuring necessary LFSP activation orders are issued as required. Activation orders include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Date that the activation is effective.

b. Assignment of units and their reporting dates.



- c. Organizational details.
- d. Designation of commander.
- e. Authorization of additional equipment required.
- f. Assignment of training area.

c. LFSP Plan

(1) CLF and appropriate subordinate commanders prepare LFSP plans containing instructions for the functioning of the LFSP including the beach party and helicopter support team, and/or air mobile support party requirements.

(2) The LFSP plan includes:

- (a) Organization and mission of the LFSP
- (b) Instructions to all subordinate elements
- (c) LFSP communication instructions
- (d) Beach, Drop Zone (DZ), and Landing Zone (LZ) defense instructions
- (e) Administrative instructions

## 7. OPERATIONS

a. Employment of the LFSP

(1) The CATF has overall responsibility for preparation of plans and control of the ship-to-shore movement. The CLF is responsible for determining the landing force's requirements for ship-to-shore movement. The responsibility for embarkation and landing of the landing support units rests with the tactical unit being supported.

(2) Buildup of the LFSP parallels the tactical buildup ashore. During MPF operations the LFSP is an element of the advance party that arrives in the Arrival and Assembly Area (AAA) in advance of the main body.

(3) The landing support task organization changes as required, based on the situation and progress of the operation.

b. Operations Ashore. A main and alternate command post (CP) are established by the LFSP. The alternate CP is located separately within the BSA. When an alternate CP is activated, the facilities of the nearest shore party group are used. Definite procedures for the LFSP CP operations and its layout should be included in a SOP. LFSP and shore party group CPs function similarly.

c. Organization of the Beach. Different emphasis is placed on beaches within the amphibious objective area at different times. The beach must be organized effectively to accomplish assigned tasks and efficiently offload both single and mixed categories of equipment and supplies.

(1) Designated beach. Represented by a color and is generally the responsibility of a shore party group. Each shore party team usually handles two types of supplies. Separate facilities for unloading supplies delivered by tracked and wheeled vehicles and evacuation of casualties are provided.

(2) Numbered beach. If the tactical scheme calls for the landing force to land in columns of battalions, shore party teams assume responsibility for half of the colored beach, resulting in colored beach 1 and colored beach 2. If possible, numbered beaches are established close to each other to allow consolidation under a shore party group.

d. LFSP in MPF Operations. Controls throughput of personnel and MPE/S at the port, beach and airfield. The LFSP receives, processes, and distributes Maritime Prepositioning Equipment/Supplies (MPE/S) from the Naval Support Element (NSE) off load organizations and moves personnel and equipment arriving in the Fly In Echelon (FIE).

(1) Tasks of the LFSP in MPF Operations.

(a) Controls throughput of MPE/S and personnel throughout the AAA.

(b) Organizes, supervises, and directs the operations of the Beach Operation Group (BOG), Port Operation Group (POG), and Arrival Airfield Control Group (AACG)/Departure Airfield Control Group (DACG).

(c) Keeps the CSSE's AAOE informed on the status of throughput operations.

(d) MDSS II/manual tracking of MPE/S

(e) Initial CSS provider to the MAGTF